

M DCP
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF DRUG COURT PROFESSIONALS



**I'M NOT
LOST YET**

HERE'S MY STORY.

JAMES HARPER, 63
VETERANS COURT GRADUATE

The tragic and sudden loss of my beautiful wife started a downward spiral that I couldn't control. I had no feelings. I completely numbed myself. I felt I had lost everything that day and I didn't know how to cope. My sons didn't know how to help me, and were very fearful of what might happen. Alcohol was my coping mechanism. It helped me numb the pain and then that was all I became... numb.

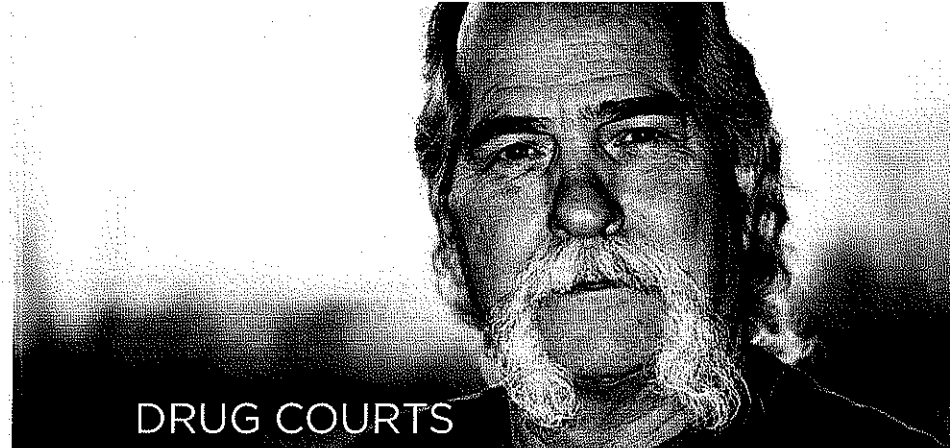
When I was first arrested for drunk driving, I was very angry. I remember meeting the judge and was shocked when he treated me with respect. From the beginning, he told me I would be the first person in his court to complete Veterans Court. He had a plan for me. My probation officer, the judge and the staff all treated me with respect. The judge told me he considered me a hero for my service to this country. Veterans Court helped me get the benefits and help I needed through the Veterans Administration.

Today, I have found new love. A woman named Donna has come into my life and has helped me heal. This never would have happened without my sobriety. My kids are happy and no longer worry about me. They express gratitude for the people who've helped me find sobriety. Through this experience, I've found happiness and life is great.

DRUG COURTS HELP.

Drug Courts provide eligible persons an alternative to traditional justice system case processing. Through close supervision, Drug Courts facilitate treatment long enough to break the cycle of addiction. For a minimum term of one year, participants are:

- ▶ Provided the intensive treatment required to get and stay clean and sober
- ▶ Held accountable by the Drug Court judge for meeting their obligations to the court, society, themselves and their families
- ▶ Regularly tested for drug use at random
- ▶ Required to appear in court frequently so the judge can review their progress
- ▶ Rewarded for doing well or sanctioned when they do not live up to their obligations



DRUG COURTS WORK.

Drug Courts are not an easy way out—they are a wakeup call. An organization of professionals committed to providing tools, enforcing consequences and offering support so individuals stay out of the court system. The State of Michigan alone has witnessed a 30% reduction in the number of DWI cases since its Drug Court inception. In fact, those who participate in Drug Courts versus the traditional court system have reduced rearrest rates by as much as 19 times.

DRUG COURTS TRANSFORM.

Instead of imprisoning addicts, Drug Courts help free them from their addiction so they can live sober and productive lives. Because of this, family reunification rates are as much as 50% higher. Here's even more proof that Drug Courts are an effective alternative:

- ▶ Nationwide, 75% of Drug Court graduates remain arrest-free at least two years after leaving the program
- ▶ Drug Court graduates have a recidivism rate of 15% compared to the 35% of traditional courts
- ▶ Rigorous studies examining long-term outcomes of individual Drug Courts have found that reductions in crime last a minimum of 3 years, with some cases lasting up to 14 years and over
- ▶ The most rigorous and conservative scientific "meta-analyses" have all concluded that Drug Courts significantly reduce crime—as much as 45% more than other sentencing options

Drug Courts help, work and transform... But they need your support. To find out more or to become a member of an organization that MADD endorses, visit madcp.org today.